



The goal of the Disability Benefit Specialist Program is to provide individuals with physical and developmental disabilities*, between the ages of 18 and 59, accurate and current information regarding public and private benefit programs; to counsel these individuals regarding eligibility for various programs and benefits; and to provide assistance, as appropriate, in the application and/or appeal procedures for such benefits.

*The program is available to people with serious mental illness in Kenosha and LaCrosse counties. By Spring 2006, DBS services will be available to people with serious mental illness in Barron, Brown, Green and Wood counties.

Which Counties Have Disability Benefit Specialist Services?

- Fond du Lac
- Kenosha
- Marathon
- Richland
- Jackson
- La Crosse
- Portage
- Trempealeau

DBS services will be available in the following counties by December 2005:

- Barron
- Brown
- Green

DBS services will be available in Wood County in Spring 2006.

For more information on the Disability Benefit Specialist Program, please visit <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/benspecs/program.htm>, or contact your county Aging and Disability Resource Center.

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Division of Disability and Elder Services, Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources, Office of Independence and Employment.

PDE-3168

Disability Benefit Specialist Program

*Benefits counseling
and support for adults with
physical and/or
developmental disabilities.**

Who is Eligible for Disability Benefit Specialist Services?

Disability Benefit Specialist services are available to people ages 18 through 59 who have a physical and/or developmental disability*, and live within the service area (see the listing of counties on the back).

When to Seek Help from a Disability Benefit Specialist

- When you want to know more about public or private benefits or programs;
- When you need help applying for public or private benefits or programs; or
- When you have been denied a benefit, program or service to which you think you are entitled.

What Areas Can a Disability Benefit Specialist Help You Understand?

A Disability Benefit Specialist can assist with the areas and programs listed below, and may be able to help with other issues, too.

- Medicaid (Medical Assistance)
- Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Medicare
- Food Stamps
- Low-Income Tax Credits
- Consumer Problems
- Private Health and Disability Insurance Issues
- Housing and Utility Issues
- Prescription Drug Assistance Programs
- Veteran's Benefits

What a Disability Benefit Specialist Can Do for You

- Provide accurate information on public and private benefits and programs;
- Provide assistance in determining to which benefits and programs you may be entitled;
- Discuss your choices and the programs or services that might best meet your individual needs;
- Provide assistance and representation, when needed, in obtaining or retaining benefits and services; or
- Provide referrals and possibly assistance and support on other matters including disability rights and the impact of earnings on financial eligibility for public benefits.
- In some cases, you may also receive representation in formal appeals related to denials of eligibility, termination of benefits or overpayment of public and private benefits.

There is no charge for the services of a Disability Benefit Specialist.